THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LANKA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal for Mechanising the Maintenance of Railway Tracks

1225. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is fact that Government have a proposal under consideration for mechanising the maintenance of railway tracks to phase out manual labour ;

(b) if so, what are the details of this proposal and the number of manual labour expected to be phased out thereby ; and

(c) whether it is fact that this job is proposed to be given to some private companies, if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Extension of EMU Train upto Tundla

1226. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that daily commuters from Aligarh and Tundla have demanded the extension of EMU train upto Tundla so as to provide facilities to them ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to extend. EMU train from New Delhi to Tundla; and if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) Some representations for running EMU trains between New Delhi/ Delhi and Aligarh have been received.

(b) Introduction of EMU train between New Delhi and Aligarh is under consideration and action as found feasible and justified will be taken. However, at present there is no proposal to run EMU trains upto Tundla.

Conversion of M.G. Lines into B.G. Lines

1227. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have decided to convert the meter gauge lines into broad gauge lines ;

(b) how many route kilometers have since been converted into broad gauge so far ;

(c) whether the conversion work has slowed down in the recent past due to paucity of resources ; and

(d) by when the conversion work is targetted to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) The Railways have taken up conversion of selected MG lines to BG.

(b) Project unigauge was taken up w.e.f. 1-4-92. Since then, 2518 kilometers have been converted.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As per present projection 6000 kms are targetted for completion during 8th Plan. The onversion of remaining lines/sections will depend on availability of resources in the subsequent Plans.

Privatisation of Railway Stations

1228. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Norhtern Railway has proposed to privatise the Moradabad, Bareilly and Dehradun railway stations ;

(b) whether Government have any such proposal for other regions ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) With the objective of better b eautification/maintenance and increasing revenue from commercial advertisement, contract at five stations *i.e.*, 4 on Western Railway and one on South Eastern Railway has been given to parties who will have exclusive